CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR TEST CARRIED OUT BY CHINA

I have the honour to request you to circulate as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament the following statement by the Government of Chile:

"The Government of Chile has learned of the decision of the Government of the People's Republic of China to detonate a high-yield nuclear device at the Lop Nor testing site in the western province of Xinjiang. Although smaller than the test carried out by China in May 1992, this test involved a yield five times that which destroyed the Japanese city of Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War.

"Chile deplores this decision, which interrupts the voluntary moratorium that had been initiated and places pressure on other nuclear Powers which might reconsider their positions, leading to a return to a nuclear testing race which appeared to have been rendered obsolete by new approaches to security.

"The Government of Chile hopes that the test carried out by the People's Republic of China will be the last of its kind and that there will be no return to a race to upgrade nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The only way to create the climate of trust necessary to speed up the disarmament negotiations to be held in Geneva, with the aim of securing a ban on nuclear testing once and for all, is to ensure that all the nuclear Powers fully shoulder the responsibility incumbent on them not to continue such tests, which are repudiated by the moral conscience of the international community."

(signed): ERNESTO TIRONI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative